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THE  
**BRASHER**  
B U L L E T I N

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Newsletter of the Society of  
Private and Pioneer Numismatics  
S.P.P.N.



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## EDITOR'S OBSERVATIONS

Dear Members,

In this issue of the bulletin, we have featured the Alaska Gold Rush Centennial. We recommend anyone visiting Alaska to take time to visit the Anchorage Museum of History and Art located at 121 West Seventh Avenue in Anchorage Alaska. If you have never panned for gold, Ron Wendt's article will help you if you want to try your luck.

Many of you may know California gold enthusiast & historian Jack Tothoroh. Jack's father worked on the 1925 Charlie Chaplin movie "The Gold Rush". Billed as a dramatic comedy with the opening showing an unending stream of prospectors negotiating the difficult Chilkoot Pass, this is the classic Alaska Gold rush movie. Jack has once again graciously contributed articles to the bulletin. Jay Roe submitted another interesting article on Panama Tokens.

Bill Weber's collection of slug facsimiles is so outstanding we decided to print a representative color centerfold of his collection. If any of our readers have any different specimens or varieties, Bill would like to hear from you.


Jim and I have put together an interview on Private Gold Patterns. This interview will help anyone interested in researching past auction histories.

Professor Robert Lande has posed the question "was California Fractional Gold really money?" Do BG-732 and BG-733 support this? Read these comments and respond if you like.

John J. Ford Jr., will be our featured speaker at the American Numismatic Association 107<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention being held August 5<sup>th</sup> of this year in Portland Oregon. Anyone, who knows John, knows how colorful his well-researched talks can be. This meeting begins at 3:00 PM in room B110-111 and is a must for all S.P.P.N. members to attend.

For the rest of the year only, we are offering lifetime memberships at \$250.00 (tax deductible). We want to thank our dealer and collector members who have so generously contributed both time and money in helping make this bulletin possible.

Best regards,



Donald H. Kagin, Ph.D.



*Mountain Jack and a Wondering Miner, c. 1850; oil on canvas, by E. Hall Martin*

# Pioneer Auction Results & Activity

## Boys Town Collection, Bowers & Merena, Inc. - March 5 - 7

2297	1834	C. Bechtler	\$5	K-17	R5	EF40	\$5,775
2298	1842-52	A. Bechtler	\$5	K-27	R5	EF45	\$5,940
2299	1849	N.G.N.	\$5	K-4	R4	EF45	\$7,370
2302	1852	USAOG	\$50	K-13	R5	EF45	\$13,200
2307	1850	Mormon	\$5	K-5	R5	EF45	\$12,000
2308	1860	Clark Gruber & Co.	\$ 2.5	K-1		VF30	\$2,860

## ANA Cincinnati - Heritage - March 19 - 20

5364		C. Bechtler	\$1	AU50 Cleaned K1			\$2,875
6782	1860	Clark, Gruber & Co.	\$5	MS62 NGC K2			\$8,050
6783	1861	Clark, Gruber & Co	\$20	MS62 NGC K12-C			\$4,715
6785	1849	Moffat	\$5	MS62 NGC K4			\$8,912

## Montgomery Collection - Bowers & Merena Inc. - May 10 & 11

1586	(1831-34)	C. Bechtler	\$1	K1 R4 EF45 NGC			\$2,310
1588	(1837-42)	C. Bechtler	\$2.5	K10 R5 AU53 PCGS			\$7,150
1589	(1831-34)	C. Bechtler	\$5	K15 R7 AU50 PCGS			\$13,200
1595	Chapman Restrike	A. Bechtler	\$5	K20 R7 PF64NGC			\$17,600
1597	1849	Moffat & Co.	\$10	K5 R6 EF40 PCGS			\$6,600
1604	1860	Clark, Gruber & Co	\$10	K-3 R5 EF 40 PCGS			\$7,480
1606	1861	Clark, Gruber & Co	\$20	K8 R5 AU50 PCGS			\$24,200

## Superior June 12

2482	1849	Mormon	\$ 2.5	K1	EF45	\$10,450
2483	1879	Mormon	\$ 5	K2	EF45	\$9,350
2487	1860	Mormon	\$ 5	K6	EF45	\$22,000

## Heritage Long Beach Sale, June

5449	1851	San Francisco	State of California	\$ 2.5		
		White Metal	AU50 K-16		Low R7	\$1,265
6598	1853	USA06 20	900 Thous.	K18 R2 Au53 NGC		\$3,565

# THE ALASKA GOLD RUSH

GOLD FEVER IN THE NORTH



ONE HUNDRED YEAR CELEBRATION





**T**he year was 1897. William McKinley was in the White House, and a new industrial order dominated American life. Fictitious rags-to-riches stories such as those by Horatio Alger fired the imaginations of the country's working class. Real-life examples were an even more powerful inspiration. If a penniless Scottish immigrant named Andrew Carnegie could rise from bobbin boy to steel magnate, then anything was possible.

But as always, reality was different from fantasy. The Panic of 1893 had set off one of the deepest economic depressions in U.S. history, draining the Treasury of its precious gold. European immigrants flocked to America seeking opportunity but often found hardship instead. The mood in the country was restless and rootless.

In July of that year two ships landed on the West Coast, in Seattle and San Francisco, together carrying over a million dollars in gold from a river in Canada called the Klondike. The headlines screamed "Gold! Gold! Gold!" and the response was electric. People from all over the country crowded aboard steamships for the long journey up Alaska's Inside Passage to the foot of the Chilkoot Trail, the shortest route to the gold diggings.

*(Continued on back flap)*

*ABOVE: The S.S. Ohio leaving Seattle for Nome in 1900. Ports on the West Coast boomed as thousands of people sailed to Alaska's gold strikes.*



From a distance they looked like a line of ants crawling up the steep, forbidding mountainside, thousands of them, plodding back and forth with heavy loads on their backs. They kept coming, throughout a winter when 70 feet of snow fell in the mountains they traversed. The uninhabited peaks rang with voices as the gold stampedes marched through the winter wilderness to the Yukon Territory of Canada where riches awaited.

Disappointment met them in the Klondike, but new gold strikes in Alaska kept the hope of instant wealth alive, and the stampedes flocked there. They faced deadly cold, blizzards, glaciers, and grizzlies in their quest. They settled the territory and left behind their towns and trails. Some succeeded and some failed, but they had one thing in common—the gold rush was the greatest adventure of their lives.

*ABOVE: Piles of gold pouches in Fairbanks. All the gold mined in Alaska since the beginning of the gold rush would fit in a cube 13 feet on a side and weigh over 1,000 tons.*



## A Gold Rush Timeline

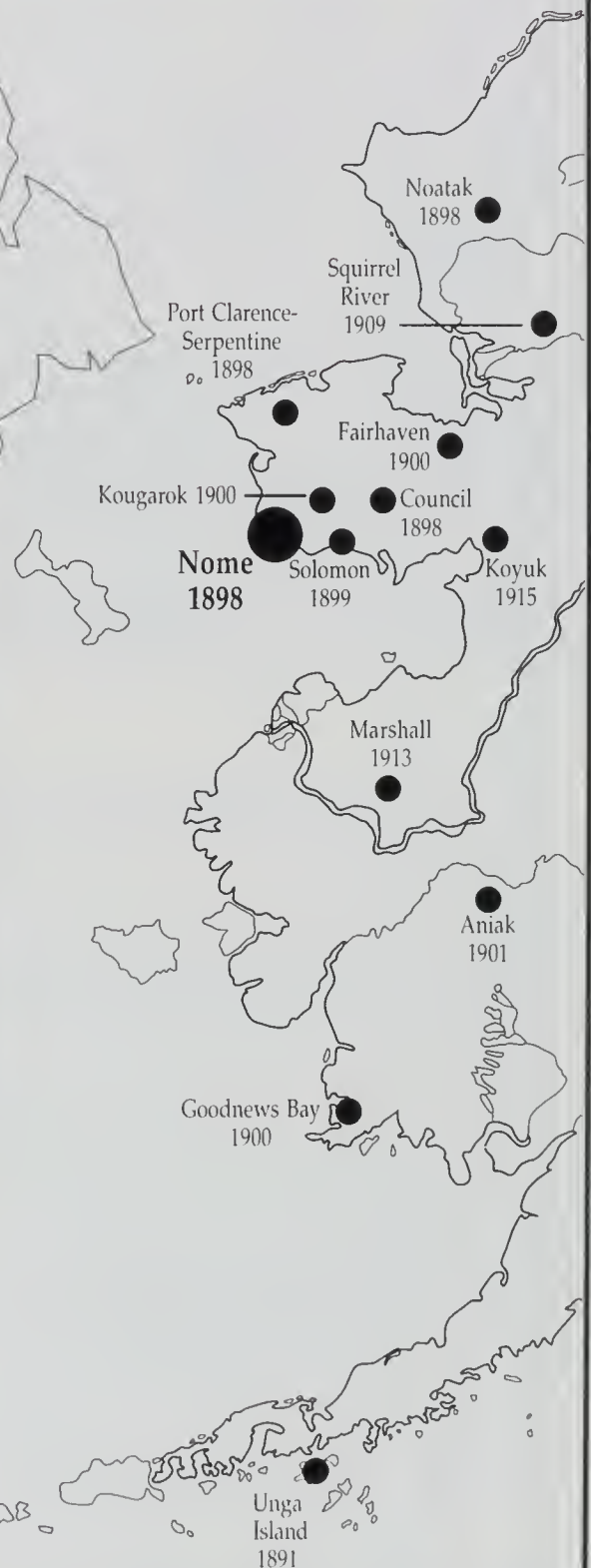
- 1914 — Jay Livengood finds gold on Livengood Creek north of Fairbanks.
- 1913 — Billy James and Nels Nelson discover gold at Chisana in the Wrangell Mountains.
- 1911 — The Alaska Road Commission blazes the Iditarod Trail.
- 1908 — John Beaton and William Dikeman strike gold on the Iditarod River.
- 1903 — Miners from Dawson stage a -50<sup>0</sup> stampede to the Tanana.
- 1902 — Felix Pedro's discovery near the Tanana River leads to the founding of Fairbanks.
- 1899 — Stampedeers begin the rush to Nome.
- 1898 — 30,000 stampedeers reach the Klondike. "The 3 lucky Swedes" strike gold at Anvil Creek (Nome).
- 1897 — The Klondike stampede begins.
- 1896 — The Carmack/Mason party strikes gold in the Klondike. Prospectors rush to Hope and Sunrise on the Kenai Peninsula.
- 1893 — The Panic of 1893 plunges the U.S. into economic depression.
- 1892 — A discovery on Birch Creek opens the Circle Mining District.
- 1888 — Al King rediscovers gold on the Kenai Peninsula.
- 1886 — Howard Franklin and Henry Madison strike gold on the Fortymile River in interior Alaska near the Canadian border.
- 1880 — Kowee, Richard Harris and Joe Juneau discover the Juneau Gold Belt. Tlingit Natives allow prospectors to cross Chilkoot Pass.
- 1873 — Jack McQuesten, prospector and trader, reaches the Yukon River.
- 1872 — Prospectors make a second Stikine gold strike.
- 1867 — U.S. purchases Alaska from Russia.
- 1861 — Buck Choquette finds gold on the Stikine River in British Columbia near Wrangell.
- 1849 — Russian engineer Peter Doroshin discovers gold on the Kenai Peninsula.

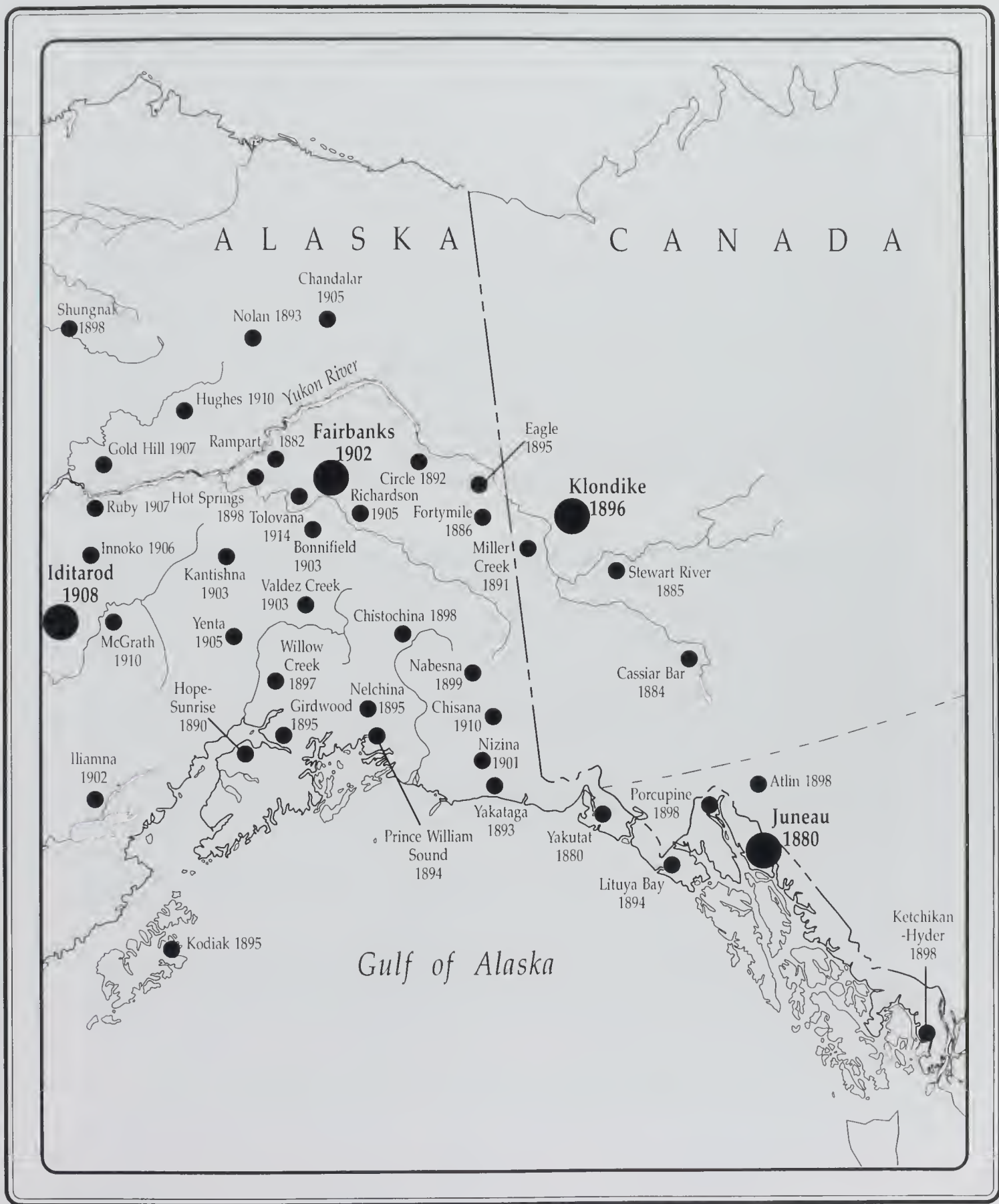
R U S S I A

# Northern Gold Discoveries 1880-1915

The worse curse of the country is  
the restless spirit of the people and  
their willingness to stampede on the  
slightest rumor of a new discovery.

Ralph Lomen  
Letter from Iditarod, 1911







# Riches by the Roadside

They say gold is where you find it.

Here's where.

by Ron Wendt

**F**or more than a century, prospectors armed with pans and shovels have climbed Alaska's hills and sloshed along its cold, twisting streambeds in search of gold. The earliest recorded strike was made by Russian mining engineer Peter Doroshin in 1848 on the Kenai Peninsula's Russian River. Since then, several significant gold rushes have swept across Alaska from southeastern's Wrangell and Juneau, north to Nome and Fairbanks, and on to Iditarod. Today gold mining remains big business in Alaska. In 1996, 161,965 troy ounces were produced, and 1997's production is estimated at 450,000 ounces. So is there any gold left for the lone prospector or recreational gold panner? Absolutely. Although more than 30 million ounces of placer gold have been mined in Alaska since 1880, some geologists estimate that just 5 percent of our gold has been found.

**PANNING FOR GOLD** There's nothing more exciting than seeing a bright gold nugget in the bottom of your pan. During the Klondike Gold Rush, prospector George Coffey washed out 63 ounces of gold from one panful! The most success I've had with panning was on the Kenai Peninsula where I hit a gold deposit trapped above bedrock. I was able to uncover \$300 per hour for six hours before the paystreak ran out. My richest single pan of gold was worth \$60, and I once saw a fellow prospector pan out a half-ounce nugget while demonstrating his panning technique.

My own technique has its roots in the Klondike. When I was growing up in Fairbanks, my father mined the Circle gold fields with several veterans of the Klondike rush. Those old-timers shared their knowledge with him. And he, in turn, passed it on to me.

The first step is to locate gold-bearing dirt. Gold is heavy and often collects where water slows. Likely spots are behind boulders, along the inside bends of streams, and within dried-up stream channels.

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*Tip: If you find bedrock along a stream, dig out the crevices-there is a much higher potential for gold here because the crevices act as natural gold traps. Panning will be tedious when digging out these cracks but can yield superior results.*

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Once you've found promising soil, fill your pan about three-quarters full. Find a fairly calm pool of water, slightly deeper than your pan, and vigorously shake the pan under water for several seconds. Swirl it around, shaking and

turning it first to the left, then to the right. Repeat the process once. This settles any gold and other heavy minerals to the bottom. Rake your fingers through the dirt and collect large stones, tossing them off to the side.

Always keep water in the pan while you're picking out the stones. This will reduce the risk of accidentally tossing nuggets or smaller pieces of gold that can stick to your finger, especially if mud or clay are mixed in with the paydirt. In fact, if clay and mud are present, you'll want to break them up with your fingers. Grinding them together with sand or rocks (always working in your pan and under water) will make this job easier.

Shake the pan vigorously under water again to settle the gold to the bottom. This should not take long. You might have 15 seconds to a couple of minutes in the whole panning process so far. Don't worry about the gold slipping out of the pan. You won't lose it, since it's 19 times heavier than water.

Once the bigger rock and pebbles are cleaned out of the pan, the finer panning process begins.

Incline the pan slightly so the far rim remains under water, while the rim closest to you just breaks the water's surface. In this position, shake and rotate the pan with sifting-like motions, allowing the lighter materials to wash over the lower rim.

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*Tip: Even as the amount of material in the pan gets smaller, the pan must be submerged regularly. Keeping water in the pan helps settle the gold beneath the heavy minerals so it won't work its way to the top and accidentally get panned out.*

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This phase has to be done gently and smoothly to save as much fine gold as possible. Continue washing the lighter materials out until just a teaspoon or less of clean sandy material remains.

If gold was present in your original sample, this residue will contain gold sand, or gold dust, as well as "black sand," which is composed of minute dark grains of various minerals—chiefly iron. Sometimes the residue holds small bit of pyrite or schist known as "fool's gold." If you're not sure, try crushing suspect "gold" with your fingernail or a knife blade. Fool's gold will crumble while true gold will not.

When a teaspoonful of material is left, give the pan a sliding motion, then a sudden jerk. This process eventually separates the worthless heavies from the gold. If you see deep orange-yellow specks with a metallic luster, you've hit paydirt.

*Tip: When scouting for a place to pan, always keep your eyes open for gold lying on the ground. I've picked up \$50 nuggets sitting on bare rock and have known others who have picked up nuggets weighing a pound or more from old tailing piles!*

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Lifelong Alaskan Ron Wendt is the author of *Where to Prospect for Gold in Alaska Without Getting Shot*, published by Goldstream Publications, Wasilla, Alaska.

## TOP PUBLIC PANNING SITES

There are more than 150 prospecting sites statewide where you legally can pan for gold. Listed below are a few of the best.

### **DALTON HIGHWAY**

Fine and coarse gold can be found on most tributaries between Fish Creek at Mile 114 and Disaster Creek at Mile 211. Best spots are South Fork Koyukuk River at Mile 156.3 and Gold Creek at Mile 197.

### **PARKS HIGHWAY**

At Trapper Creek take the Petersville Road to the Petersville State Recreation Mining area. Fine to coarse gold.

### **RICHARDSON HIGHWAY**

Most tributaries from the Lower River at Mile 12.8 to the Ober Creek turnoff at Mile 242. Best spots: Tsaina River at Mile 32-33, Stuart Creek at Mile 45.6, Gunnysack Creek at Mile 227. Stay within 150 feet of the highway center line.

### **SEWARD HIGHWAY**

Bird Creek, and most tributaries between Mile 25.8 and Summit, also Slate Creek at Mile 87. Best spots: Crow Creek (Girdwood), Bertha Creek at Mile 61.7, and Silvertip Creek at Mile 66.

### **STERLING HIGHWAY**

Crescent Creek at Mile 98 and Cooper Creek at Mile 101.4.

### **GLENN HIGHWAY**

Caribou Creek at Mile 106.8 and Nelchina River at Mile 137.5.

### **HATCHER PASS ROAD**

Little Susitna River drainage from Mother Lode Lodge upstream. Upper Willow Creek and Craigie Creek along the roadway and tributaries. Look for bedrock. Stay within 25 to 50 feet of roadway center.

### **STEESE HIGHWAY**

Nome Creek at Mile 57 and Bachelor Creek at Mile 80 (5-ounce nugget found here).

### **HOPE-SUNRISE CUTOFF**

Six Mile Creek at Mile 1.5 to Mile 5.5; Resurrection Creek, St. Louis Claim.

### **TAYLOR HIGHWAY**

Jack Wade Dredge at Mile 86.1 and American Creek at Mile 151.

## Pay-As-You-Pan Concessions

### **THE GOLD PANNER**

Taylor Highway  
P.O. Box 33  
Chicken, AK 99732  
Mile 66.5. No phone.

### **GOLDSTREAM DISCOVERY**

Steesse Highway  
551 Eberhardt Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99712  
No phone.

### **CROW CREEK MINE**

Seward Highway  
P.O. Box 689  
Girdwood, AK 99587  
Mile 37. (907) 278-8060

### **ELDORADO GOLD MINE**

Elliott Highway  
1975 Discovery Drive  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
(907) 457-7072

### **GOLD DREDGE NO. 8**

Old Steese Highway  
P.O. Box 81941  
Fairbanks, AK 99708  
(907) 457-6058

### **HOPE MINING CO.**

Resurrection Creek Road  
P.O. Box 101827-VG  
Anchorage, AK 99510  
(907) 274-1906



## SOAPY SMITH

Jefferson Randolph “Soapy” Smith probably ranks as Skagway’s best-known character from the gold rush days. Certainly, he was its most notorious con man. It is said that at the height of the gold rush, Smith and his gang virtually controlled the town, a reign that ended in a shoot-out with one of Skagway’s leading citizens, Frank Reid.

Smith was born in Georgia in 1860 to parents who were both members of prominent Southern families. Smith spent most of his formative years in Texas, where his family moved in the 1870s. After his father, a lawyer, fell on hard times, young Jeff was forced to earn a living as a delivery boy and as a runner for a hotel, a job in which he rustled up customers and thus discovered his natural gift for speech.

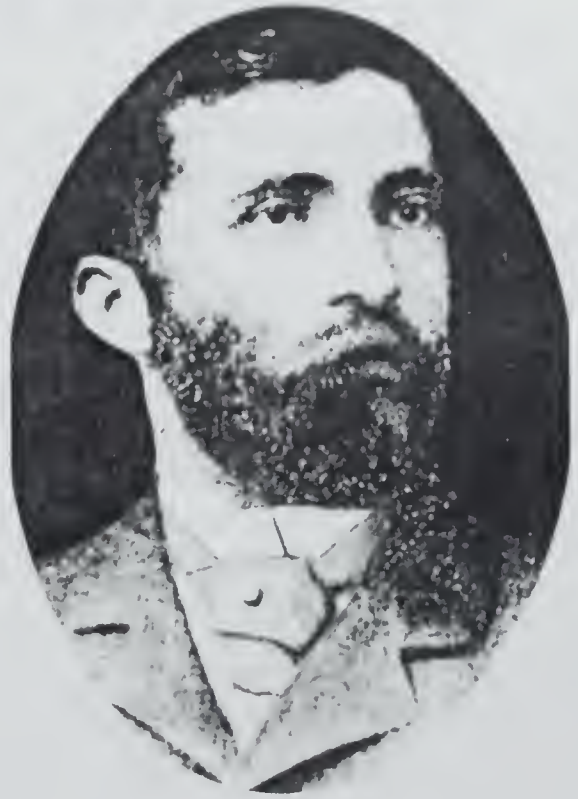
While still in his teens, Smith hired on as a trail hand on cattle drives, and spent several years drifting about the West. He eventually learned sleight-of-hand tricks and made a living in the mining camps with gambling games such as the pea-under-the-shell game. He acquired his nickname “Soapy” from a game which involved hiding large bills in bars of soap.

Smith, who was generally opposed to violent methods, graduated to larger operations, and set up in Denver where he formed a gang. In Denver, he acquired a wide reputation for his con games as well as for his generosity to charities, churches, and those in desperate need. Also in Denver, he married a singer by the name of Anna Nielsen, whom he kept insulated from his “public” life and who eventually bore his children.

About 1890, Smith set up operations, including a gambling hall, in Creede, Colo., a wide-open mining town, but eventually returned to Denver. After numerous run-ins with the law and local politicians, Soapy Smith quit Colorado and, in October 1897, arrived with his gang in Skagway, apparently with intentions of “taking over” the town.

Working out of an establishment called Jeff Smith’s Parlor, an oyster parlor that also offered liquor and gambling, Smith and his gang soon were operating their con games, as well as taking part in some outright robbery, running a protection racket, and overseeing businesses like Smith’s “Telegraph Office.” This last business, which charged \$5 to send a message anywhere in the world, might have been legitimate but for the fact that Skagway had no telegraph lines.

Despite his lawless ways, Smith was liked and respected by many for his charity, which included organizing a program to adopt stray dogs. The townspeople, however, had no use whatsoever for his gang.



Jefferson Randolph “Soapy” Smith. DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY  
WESTERN HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Eventually, several of Skagway’s leading citizens formed a vigilante-style “Committee of 101” to rid the town of its criminal element. Among the committee’s founders was 54-year-old Frank Reid, a former Indian fighter and surveyor who helped lay out the original town.

The showdown between Soapy Smith and Frank Reid began when a young miner, J.D. Stewart, arrived in Skagway from the Klondike carrying \$2,700 in gold. Somehow, and apparently with the help of someone, Stewart and his gold parted ways. The Committee of 101, hearing Stewart’s loud complaints, suspected Soapy Smith and his gang and on July 8, 1898, called a meeting on the Skagway wharf to take action.

Soapy Smith tried to force his way into the meeting but found his path along the wharf blocked by Frank Reid. After a brief struggle the two exchanged gunfire and both fell to the deck. Smith died immediately of a bullet through the heart; Reid lingered 12 days.

With the death of Soapy Smith, the law-abiding citizens of Skagway got rid of other members of the gang. Most of them were shipped south, and many served time in prison. Smith and Reid were buried near each other in the Skagway cemetery, with Reid’s tombstone bearing the words, “He gave his life for the Honor of Skagway.” Soapy Smith’s tombstone became a favorite among souvenir seekers, who believed a piece of

# A HUNDRED YEARS LATER

## THE LEGACY OF THE ALASKA GOLD RUSHES

A railroad to nowhere on the tundra, an uninhabited trail once beaten by the feet of thousands of prospectors, a historic town at the gateway to the Klondike—they're all reminders of the Alaska gold rush. Visitors can enjoy this legacy all across the state, from Juneau to Nome. Alaskans have planned dozens of local events and exhibits for the centennial decade that lasts through 2004.

### **JUNEAU** ✿ **THE FIRST BIG STRIKE**

The Juneau Douglas City Museum features exhibits on the early mining days here, the site of the first big Alaska gold strike. Guides offer walking tours of the historic Treadwell and Perseverance Mines, or visitors can take unguided walks on the trails to the mines. The old AJ Mine hangs on the hillside above Gastineau Channel, giving ferry and cruise ship passengers a taste of Juneau's history as the boats approach the city dock.

### **SKAGWAY** ✿ **THE GHOSTS OF DELILAH AND SOAPY**

Skagway keeps its gold rush spirit alive and some other spirits, too. The ghost of Delilah (a gold rush lady of the night) supposedly still frequents one of Skagway's saloons, and Soapy Smith's memory gets a boost every July 8 during a wake at his grave in the Gold Rush Cemetery.

Skagway is compact and easy to get around. Besides the Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park, there are several restored historic buildings, the city's Arctic Brotherhood Hall visitor center, and the Trail of '98 Museum. All are within a few blocks of each other.

The Chilkoot Trail, the site of Dyea, and the Slide Cemetery (where victims of the 1898 Chilkoot Pass avalanche are buried), are nine miles outside town. To get to Bennett, where stampedeers launched their boats for Dawson, you can hike 33 miles over the Chilkoot just like the stampedeers did or take a scenic train ride over White Pass.

### **FAIRBANKS** ✿ **SURVIVING E.T. BARNETTE JUST FINE, THANKS**

E.T. Barnette, founder of Fairbanks, embezzled all the cash from his bank and skipped town in 1911. But Fairbanks got over it and celebrates its gold-rush past every July at its week-long Golden Days, the largest summer festival in Alaska. At Alaskaland a reconstructed gold rush town and the Pioneer Museum feature the city's early days. At private historic mines you can pan for gold, tour a gold dredge, and visit a tunnel in the permafrost to learn about the peculiarities of mining in the frozen north. Riverboat tours of the Chena River recall the days when streams were Alaska's only highways.

### **THE YUKON** ✿ **ALASKA'S GREAT RIVER**

North and east of Fairbanks are Eagle, Circle, and Central, three small towns, each with a gold rush history. Eagle's historic district and Central's museum tell of the area's past. The 150-mile float down the Yukon River from Eagle to Circle takes canoeists past historic mining camps.

### **SOUTH CENTRAL ALASKA** ✿ **A GOLD RUSH SURPRISE**

Even the locals don't know much about the gold rush days of Cook Inlet near Anchorage. You can hike parts of the Iditarod Trail, ride a section of the trail on the Alaska Railroad north of Seward, or see the start of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race in Anchorage the first Saturday in March. Other gold rush stops include tours of historic mines and a visit to tiny Hope's museum and historic buildings. For the more adventurous there's the Mount Marathon foot race in Seward in July, first run by miners in 1909.

### **NOME** ✿ **THE TUNDRA ZONE**

Out on the treeless tundra of Nome, you can camp and pan for gold on the famous golden beach or take a gold rush tour of the area. The finish of the Iditarod race is in Nome in mid-March; make your reservations early if you decide to go.



# Slug Facsimilies

Although the following listing of "Octagonal and Round California Slug Facsimilies" is the most comprehensive provided to date, be assured, new and unreported varieties will emerge.

Today, collectors of modest means may satisfy their desire to own an example of the historical California \$50.00 gold "slug" with an attractive die struck facsimile.

The original octagonal slugs 1851-1855?? were exclusively Californian. No where else in the world were gold coins struck of this value, shape, weight or size. Their uniqueness and world wide reknown as Californian provided anyone displaying an octagonal facsimile badge or medal as a representative of the Golden State.

As early as 1906 and through 1950 attractive gold plated or gilt, die struck, octagonal medals bearing an obverse design similar to the Augustus Humbert - U.S. Assay Office \$50.00 gold "Slugs" of 1851 and 1852 were popular as fund raising medallion souvenirs and to identify California delegates at national political and fraternal conventions.

For many years slug facsimilies have served as commemorative souvenirs, source of income for fairs or expositions and as delegate badges. Occasionally facsimilies evidence a fobbed top i.e., an oval opening through which a ribbon was placed and thereby secure these colorful and distinctive medals to an often decorative pinback suspending bar.

A slug facsimilies central obverse design features a heraldic eagle perched on a rock clutching in its talons a bundle of arrows, a shield, and an olive branch. A ribbon - usually plain - is held in its beak. An inscribed scroll above the eagle may display one of several values or legends, i.e., "OOO THOU.", "WE TRUST", "IN GOD WE TRUST", etc. The legend or fineness value on the scroll provides the diagnostic key used for the different obverse dies.

Fewer round slug facsimilies are known and I suspect it's because round facsimilies do not provide an immediate "California Origin" identity octagonals do.

Relatively few manufacturers struck these colorful and uniquely Californian octagonal medals. The most prominent by far is Irvine & Jachens currently in Daly City, CA. John C. Irvine entered business as an engraver and rubber stamp manufacturer from 1886-1896. Several partnership arrangements ensued between 1896 and 1908 when the company assumed its current name Irvine & Jachens. The "obverse" die for Types #5 and #6 is the mate to at least twenty-five different reverses. These include the "Official Souvenir" octagonal medals for the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition and the 1948-1950 California Centennial celebration medals. Many other civic and private events commissioned and issued octagonal commemorative souvenirs to celebrate a fiftieth anniversary, to raise funds or as identification badges.

Occasionally facsimilies are found with a fobbed or oval opening in the top. The opening allowed a colorful ribbon to secure the medal to a pin back suspension bar.

The slug facsimilies commercial potential as an attractive gold rush souvenir did not pass unnoticed by Earl A. Parker, a nationally prominent and highly respected San Francisco coin dealer (circa 1936-1963). Earl arranged with a local medal manufacturr (Irvine & Jachens??) to strike a limited number of facsimilies - see octagonal and round Types #2 & #17 below. These two piece sets are referred to by western collectors as a "Parker" set during the 1950's. Additional octagonal varieties were commissioned by Parker and struck using obverse #6 and three different reverse dies. Reverse #1 depicts



a miner standing in a stream panning gold. Reverse variety #2 shows a miner kneeling beside a stream panning gold with a legend "The Days of old the Days of Gold The Days of '49". Reverse #3 is similar to reverse #2 but without a reverse legend.

The earliest reference listing slug facsimilies I find is provided on page 85 of R.H. Burnie's - SMALL CALIFORNIA AND TERRITORIAL GOLD COINS published in 1955.

The major facsimile types currently known are illustrated below and usually - excepting Obverse Types #6 and #9 - have a single reverse mate.

Fewer round than octagonal slug facsimilies are known. To my knowledge none are featured - as are the octagonals - on a delegate badge. Perhaps it's because their shape does not provide the same immediate recognition for being a \$50.00 gold piece, a semi-centennial or 50th anniversary piece or California in origin.

Like the original gold slugs of 1851-1855?? facsimilies are almost exclusively California in origin, what they celebrate or commemorate.

Very few attractive slug facsimilies have been struck since 1950. Too often, unfortunately, many are sleazy cast copies offered as "Gold Rush Souvenirs" at flea markets, swap meets, etc. Understandably, die struck facsimilies are far more popular than cast as they provide superior die detail, surfaces and finish.

Obverse Types #6 and #9 are the notable for having more than one reverse mate. They will be described in forthcoming issues of The Brasher Bulliten.

#### Burnie Cross Reference:

Burnie NO. 1 - Considered to describe the octagonal Parker facsimile except Burnie describes "880 Thous. on the ribbon in the eagles beak" instead of 880 Thous. on the banner above the eagle.

Burnie NO. 2 - Correctly describes the Parker round in all respects.

Burnie NO. 3 - Known to me as a cast - not die struck - facsimile.

Burnie NO. 4 - Unknown to me with obverse legend described.

Burnie NO. 5 - Unknown to me. Obv. legend and Rev. w/1915 Expo. view.

Burnie NO. 6 - Believe this to be an I&J product.

Burnie NO. 7 - Unknown to me in 9 carat, a 14 carat example reported. I question the accuracy of Burnie's obv. legends for NO. 4 thru 7. Believe they will turn out to be I&J's work.

#### H-K Cross Reference:

A rudimentary listing with descriptions of slug facsimilies and obsolete retail values appears in Harold Hibler and Chas. Kappens "So-Called Dollars". See pages 62 and 76. As far removed from current reality as H&K's 1963 "retail values" are, a "1978-1979 price supplement" issued by Johnson and Jensen purporting to provide "CURRENT VALUATIONS" of H&K's So-Called Dollars can only be described as ludicrous and totally without merit.

Other California civic celebrations commemorating historical events of local nature with attractive octagonal medals are. Visit of U.S. Naval Fleet, 1908 - H-K #352a; Portola Festival, 1913 - H-K #397; Mariposa Courthouse and Mariposa Gazette - H-K #704.

OCTAGONAL Diagnostic Key  
OBVERSES on Scroll:

Reverse Design:

Type #

- |    |                               |                                  |
|----|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. | 887 THOUg (MGM "Movie Money") | Small 50 within central circles. |
| 2. | 880 THOU "Parker" octagonal   | "Target" Reverse.                |
| 3. | 900 THOU "Kuner"              | Uniface shell                    |

Also provides the central design in the bowl of two different size souvenir spoons, in a copper ash tray and as saddle decorations. See Adams 83 on page 105 for plate and description.

- |    |          |            |                                     |
|----|----------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4. | 000 THOU | Dated 1850 | Rays with 50 in center.             |
| 5. | 000 THOU | " "        | Miner standing panning gold.        |
| 6. | 000 THOU | " "        | Small star <u>inside</u> curl of 5. |

Note: Obverse die Type #5 is known with at least twenty-four different reverse mates. These medals were struck by Irvine & Jachens who have operated for nearly a century in San Francisco and Daly City, CA. Included among the twenty-four reverses are five varieties listed in H&K's "So Called Dollars" as "obverses" for #'s 423, 424, 503, 504, & 505.

- |     |   |            |  |
|-----|---|------------|--|
| 7.  | WE TRUST  | Dated 1850 | Obverse & Reverse identical.           |
| 8.  | IN GOD WE TRUST   |            | Four different reverse dies.           |
| 9.  | " " " " (Copyrighted)   |            | "So Called Dollars" H-K #425.          |
| 10. | "LIBERTY" on ribbon in eagles beak.   |            | "THOMPSON RESTURANTS"                  |
| 12. | " " " " " "   |            | "17 <sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SESSION", etc |
| 13. | The California Centennial celebration - 1948-1950 slug size octagonal "Official Souvenir" medals - see H-K #'496, 497, 498. |            |  |
| 14. | "O. H. F." on scroll.   |            | "MONTANA TERRITORY"                    |
| 15. | "1934 - 1984" on scroll.  |            | "MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY"         |
| 16. | Eagle with Hare in talons   |            | "Target" type.                         |
| 17. | 000 THOU. (Round planchet)  |            | "SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COIN CLUB"         |
| 18. | "Official (California) Bicentennial Gold Piece"   |            |  |

Issued by the United States Gold Corporation. Their promotional flier states that 10,000, 50 gram, 18 karat, serially numbered pieces were struck in 1976. They are seldom seen offered today and were probably victims of the "big melt" of 1979 & '80. Unfortunately the original dies were resurrected in 1989-1990 to make re-strikes on inferior BRASS planchets.

Type of ROUND Facsimilies:

- |     |                   |   |
|-----|-------------------|---|
| 19. | "Parker" round    | Very similar to the Kellogg & Co. slug.     |
| 20. | "Coca-Cola" MCMXV | Similar to the 1915 P.P.I.E. \$50.00 round. |

# Collecting Private Gold Patterns

Jim Vallier has been collecting Private Gold Patterns since the early sixties. *The Bulletin* has had good response to Jay Roe's Interview format. Jim has always liked the interview that John J. Ford gave in the 1990 Heritage sponsored "Legacy" magazine. Jim was interviewed June 18, 1998, by Don Kagin (SPPN) for *The Brasher Bulletin*.

**SPPN:** How did you get interested in Private Gold Patterns?

**Vallier:** I had always been interested in Western Americana as my relatives were in the 1849 California and 1898 Nome, Alaska Gold Rushes. Ronnie Carr displayed his private gold collection at our Coin Club in 1961. Coin dealers, Earl Parker in San Francisco and Aldo Basson in San Mateo, had an interest in Pioneer Gold. Finally in 1962, at the Jack Tar Hotel Northern California Convention, I won first place for my silver dollar exhibit. Included in the exhibit were several pattern dollars. I liked pattern coinage and David Bowers (Empire Coin Co.) was marketing a huge collection. I met Jack Klausen at the show. He had a few pioneer patterns. He gave me a copy of Jerry Kimmel's Pioneer Auction results. I purchased a 1849 California counter of a miner panning gold for a few dollars.

**SPPN:** Did you collect with any plan in mind?

**Vallier:** Well of course some of the Pioneer rarities were beyond my budget but the patterns seemed just as rare if not rarer at a fraction of the price. I decided to collect them also when available. My plan was to get at least one representative pattern from each minter listed in the Red Book.

**SPPN:** How did you go about this in the early sixties?

**Vallier:** My reference was Edgar H. Adams' *Private Gold Coinage of California, 1949-1855, its History and its issues* - 1913, which I still often refer to. Adams also collaborated with William H. Woodin in 1913 for the standard reference work on United States patterns at the time. Later Dr. Judd updated the A-W numbers in his pattern book with Walter Breen and Abe Kosoff's help. With limited specific numismatic research available I started a gold rush library and researched old auction catalogs listed in Kimmel's original report. I wrote the auction companies and sent out "want lists" to the major dealers.

**SPPN:** Who were the major pioneer dealers and auction companies at that time?



**Vallier:** I received catalogs from New Netherlands, Stacks, Kagin's, Abner Kreisberg Corp., also May Flower had a couple of good sales. I put my name on their "want lists" along with talking to dealers, Abe Kosoff, Jack Klausen, Harlan White, Norman Shultz, etc., who loved pioneer coins. It was really a struggle to get anything!

**SPPN:** Explain why it was so difficult.

**Vallier:** I got a Bechtler at Stacks' 1963 Walton sale and a few pieces here and there from ads. I was unaware of auction representation at the time. I started attending auctions in person to get the pieces I wanted. I attended Abner Kreisberg's & Jerry Cohen's sales of the John Beck Collection 1975, 1976 & 1977. There were tons of slugs. I was up against the Kagins, Henry Clifford and Jack Klausen who bought everything. Just like Martin Paul today dominates most auctions Jack Klausen bought just about every pioneer coin available, gem to damaged.

**SPPN:** What other memorable auctions did you attend and was it still a struggle?

**Vallier:** The 1980 Garrett, 1982 Clifford, Kagins 1983 ANA, Kosoff 1985.

**SPPN:** Hold on! These were great pioneer gold sales. Tell us a little bit about them.

**Vallier:** In retrospect I managed to get some great buys at the Beck sales because of the amount of pioneer available. I wised up and finally got auction representation at Rarcoa's N.M. Kaufman 1978 sale. The Garrett sale is legendary in both coins offered for sale as well as prices realized. I watched in disbelief but the experience actually helped me in years to come.

**SPPN:** How did it help you?

**Vallier:** I went to Garrett with a certain dollar amount to spend in hope of getting the Blake \$20, Bowie \$1, Columbus Co. \$5, Dubosq 2.50, maybe along shot chance at one of the 3 unique copper pattern slugs, Moran & Clark \$10, J.S. Ormsby \$10 Silver Trail, Pelican Co. \$2.50, or the Denver City Assay Office \$5. I got shut out! I ended up buying one coin. But I noted in my catalog *who* bought the coins and hoped that since I was relatively young enough I would get another change on some of these rarities.

**SPPN:** So what happened??

**Vallier:** I was better prepared when Clifford and Kosoff collections became available. The market had changed in my favor. John Pittman mortgaged his house to attend the King Farouk sale in 1954. I did about the same at Clifford and got quite a few neat items. At the Jane Allan Brand sale some great items that were off the market for years also became available. Once again you must attend or have auction representation.

Many of the patterns that become available are a matter of opportunity. You have to be ready to act and willing to adjust your collecting and auction priorities while staying within fair market value. All you need is a couple of competing collectors and dealers and prices can get out of hand.

**SPPN:** Can you tell us about some of your successes?

**Vallier:** At the 1980 Garrett I was under bidder to Abe Kosoff for the J.S. Ormsby & Co. \$10 trail piece stuck over the 1815 2 real piece of Mexico (under Spain) at \$14,000. At the 1985 Kosoff estate sale, I paid half that to obtain the coin. I missed the unique Bechtler \$2.50 Carolina die trail in copper gilt, but I did get a great buy on the unique Sierra Nevada \$2.50 in silver.

**SPPN:** What patterns do you like?

**Vallier:** The Clark Gruber pieces are relatively attainable, I like the Baldwin \$10 horseman restrikes for design, as I do the California gold mines Dancing Bears \$20 counter. The Massachusetts and California patterns offer great die varieties for research. I had a complete set of the 1898 50th anniversary Mormon restrikes, although I rarely see them available now. My personal favorite rarities are the copper Kellogg and Humbert \$50 pieces. I think the Silver trail striking of the Shultz & Co., \$5 on the 1847 Mexican 8 Real piece is great. Each and every pattern piece in private gold coins and patterns has it's own story and research could produce interesting articles for publication.

**SPPN:** So, let's get started on this.

**Vallier:** I believe you owe *The Bulletin* an article on Clark, Gruber die trails, off-metal and overstrikes new discoveries - I'll try to get together a specific pattern issue for the next *Bulletin*. Hopefully some of the membership can offer some articles for the next *Bulletin* too.



## Old & New Ingot Discoveries

### Tonopah Times - Bonanza Times, Friday, July 15, 1955 Fails to Locate Bar in Tonopah

Pursuing a hobby he has followed for many years, Paul Franklin spent some time in Tonopah this week searching without avail for a bar. Reason for his lack of success stems from the fact that what he seeks are old assay bars, regarded as rare collector's items back East.

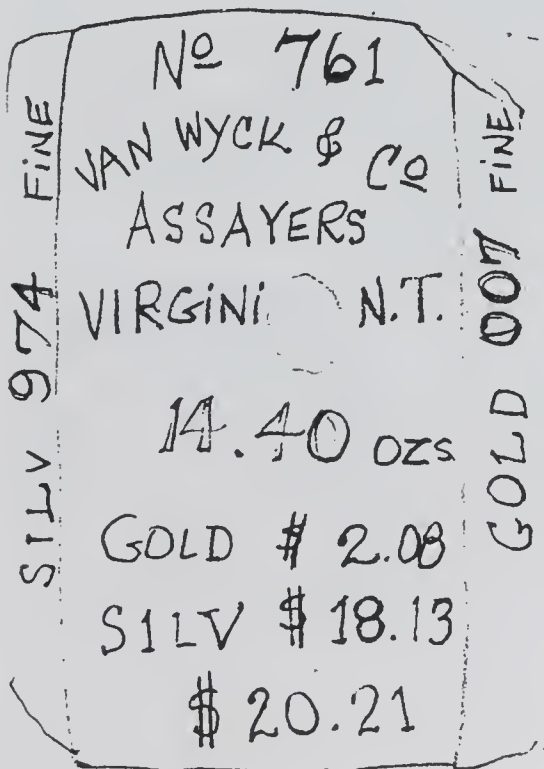
Franklin, an electronics specialist from Long Island, N.Y. displayed several assay bars he has acquired in the past from California and one from Virginia City, Nevada, stamped by a Chinese assayer.

Another bar is pure gold, the residue of an assay made in San Francisco in 1851. Valued at that time at \$54.33 (the amount being stamped on the bar) it now commands about \$800 as a collector's item, Franklin said.

Franklin came to this region at the suggestion of Charles Diehl, whom old timers will recall as an assayer in Goldfield from 1907 to 1910. Now in his 80's, Diehl resides in Phoenix, Arizona, and is still active as an assayer.

Accompanying Franklin here were his young son, Paul, and a fellow worker from Long Island, Clem Martins.

### New Ingot Discoveries



Monumental Mine  
Ingot No. 271  
Grant Co. Oregon  
18.31 oz  
Fine 736 Sil  
Fine 18 Gol  

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24.23



# Elder's Rare Panama Gold Tokens

by Jay Roe



Thomas Elder was a prolific producer of tokens and medals in the early part of this century. Gold \$1.- sized tokens were made for the 1909 Hudson-Fulton Exposition as well as the Lincoln tokens of 1910, 1927 and 1939.

To commemorate the Panama Canal, Elder also produced the Panama Gold tokens. Records of his offering these for sale were first found in his auction catalog of 12/13/12. This token was reported in the Panama Canal Review, "Coin of Mystery in Show," August 7, 1961. The 1912 ONE TOKEN is illustrated in "Coins and Currency of Panama" by Captain Julius Grigore, Jr. who reports that at that time his coin was obtained from Panama Canal Pilot Frank B. Kerley, former president of the Isthmian Numismatic Society, who had obtained it in New York.

More than one hundred worldwide inquires made by Captain Kerley indicated that this token was purchased from the collection of King Victor Emmanuel of Italy, who had apparently purchased it from Elder while visiting in New York. His Majesty was an Honorary member of the New York Numismatic Club at that time. Two of the pieces in the author's collection came from Henry Chapman and one was present in the Kosoff Estate Sale.



Thomas K. DeLorey, "Thomas L. Elder, A Catalogue of his Tokens and Medals," the *Numismatist*, June and July 1980, lists the Panama Gold piece No. 103 and a corresponding CALIFORNIA GOLD piece as No. 104. DeLorey reports 25 gold pieces of each type were struck in 14k gold (1.2 grams) as well as in silver. But strikings are also known in aluminum (0.35 grams), bronze and gilt brass (both 1.1 grams), as was typical of the Elder issues. Also known is a thin undated bronze piece with a weight of 0.65 grams.

All these tokens are 15mm. in diameter, with a plain edge. The obverse features the head of Persephone inside a wreath. The borders are denticled. The quality of engraving is excellent. DeLorey 103 with a reverse reading PANAMA GOLD ONE TOKEN 1912 is also found in an unlisted die combination that lacks the date. The same obverse was also mated to a reverse reading CALIFORNIA GOLD ONE TOKEN 1912 (DeLorey 104).

Was California Small Denomination Gold Really Money:  
Evidence from the PCGS Population Reports

Prof. Robert H. Lande  
June 2, 1998

The origin and nature of California Small Denomination Gold pieces is, even today, unclear and controversial. The conventional wisdom is the conclusion presented in California Pioneer Fractional Gold, the standard reference by Breen & Gilleo: the Period 1 pieces (1852-1856) were produced to be circulated as money, and they did circulate as coins or tokens in exchange for goods and services. By contrast, Breen & Gilleo conclude that the Period 2 (1859-82) pieces and Period 3 pieces (1883 on) were "suppressed jeweler's pieces." They were only intended to be souvenirs, and did not actually circulate as money.

Breen & Gilleo's Evidence

If you read the Breen & Gilleo book carefully, however, they present no "hard" evidence that even the Period 1 pieces had ever been used as money. They present no newspaper stories from the 1852-56 era, for example, which report that the pieces actually circulated. They present no contemporaneous merchant records that the pieces ever had been accepted in exchange for merchandise. Nor do they present relevant evidence from diaries of the period.

Breen & Gilleo do, however, present a considerable amount of circumstantial or indirect evidence which indicates that the Period 1 pieces probably had circulated as money. While no item of this evidence by itself is conclusive, together it provides a very reasonable basis for their conclusion.

Conversely they cannot, of course, prove that the Period 2 pieces did not circulate. They cannot prove this either in general or for particular issues. Indeed, how could they possibly prove a negative? Instead they present a great deal of additional indirect evidence that tends to support their conclusions.

The PCGS Population Reports

In addition to the indirect evidence that Breen & Gilleo



examine, there is another source of circumstantial evidence that could be considered before we reach a conclusion about the status of either the Period 1 or Period 2 pieces. If we want to know whether they actually circulated as money, it might be helpful to determine to what extent the existing pieces are in circulated condition. To help answer this question we can turn to the PCGS Population Reports.

As of December 31, 1997, PCGS had certified 14,989 California Small Denomination Gold pieces. Of these, 3,664, or 24.4% were Period 1 pieces, and the remaining 11,325 were Period 2 pieces (PCGS does not certify Period 3 pieces.)

Of the total certified California Gold pieces, 3,275, or 21.8%, were judged to be in circulated condition. Of the Period 1 pieces, 1,210, or 33.0%, were in circulated condition, while 2,065, or 18.2% of the Period 2 pieces were graded as being in circulated condition.

Thus, the Period 1 pieces are almost twice as likely to be graded by PCGS as being in circulated condition. This gives indirect support to Breen & Gilleo's conclusion that the Period 1 pieces were more likely to actually have circulated as coins. Of course, one could ask why so many of the Period 2 pieces came to be in circulated condition. Nevertheless, in light of the PCGS statistics, the case for them having actually been used as coins becomes relatively weaker. The PCGS statistics thus provide the Breen-Gilleo conclusion with a small amount of additional support.

#### Qualifications To This Conclusion

Several important qualifications to the above must, however, be made. First, there is undoubtedly a strong bias in the PCGS statistics. Due to the significant cost of certifying a piece, and the relatively larger value of uncirculated pieces, the uncirculated pieces are much more likely to be submitted to PCGS for certification. Moreover, small differences in grade cause less of a difference in the value of coins when they are in circulated condition. For both of these reasons, even though 78.2% of the pieces that have been submitted for certification were graded as uncirculated, this does not mean that 78.2% of the existing pieces are uncirculated. The actual figure is almost certain to be significantly lower.

For example, there are many California Gold pieces that are worth less than \$100 in circulated condition. It would seem unlikely that many dealers would pay the costs of certifying such

pieces. By contrast, a \$500 or \$1,000 coin would be much more likely to be certified, regardless of its condition.

To illustrate, all Period 1 coins with PCGS populations of 10 or less are scarce. A dealer with one of these coins would not so likely be deterred by the cost of certification, even if the coin were circulated. Interestingly, of the 180 Period 1 coins in categories with a PCGS reported population of 10 or less, 84, or 46.7%, were circulated. This implies that the "true" percentage of Period 1 California Small denomination Gold pieces that are circulated is probably closer to 46.7% than to 21.8%. Moreover, many California Small Denomination pieces are not certifiable due to having been mounted in jewelry or otherwise damaged. Thus, it seems very likely that the majority of existing Period 1 pieces are circulated.

Second, a coin can be classified by PCGS as being in a circulated grade, particularly as AU, even if it never actually circulated. If it merely lay in a drawer, on a dresser top, or in a pocket it could easily pick up enough small marks to be classified as circulated even if it never actually was used as a coin. If we want to identify pieces that actually circulated as coins, perhaps we should exclude AU pieces from our sample.

If this is done, the results show even more of a difference between Period 1 and Period 2 pieces. Of the Period 1 pieces, 93, or 2.84%, were graded XF or below, while the corresponding figures for the Period 2 pieces are 123, or 1.05%. Thus, the Period 1 pieces are 2.7 times as likely to be in XF or lower condition as the Period 2 pieces.

Third, some of the PCGS statistics undoubtedly reflect resubmissions. Even though PCGS reports grades for 14,989 pieces, the total number of different pieces they have graded must be somewhat less than this. Again, the bias is most likely to occur in the higher grade pieces - the difference in value between an XF and AU piece is almost always much lower than the difference between an MS 64 and MS 65 piece, so the higher grade pieces are much more likely to be the ones resubmitted for regrading. However, price differences even between, for example, MS 64 and MS 65 pieces, are much smaller than they are for most coin series. So the amount of regrading of pieces is likely to be much lower than for most other U.S. series. Although this certainly could bias any analysis of PCGS statistics, I doubt that it would do so in a manner that affects the relative comparison of Period 1 and Period 2 pieces.

### Dollars Are Different

In addition, the PCGS statistics strongly suggest that for some reason the dollars must have had a very different history from the smaller pieces.

All Period 1 Round \$1.00 pieces are very scarce. Unless they are damaged, they sell for more than \$1,000. Dealers have an incentive to certify every Round \$1.00 they have since the cost of certification is very small compared to the value of the coin. Interestingly, all 11 of the Round dollars that PCGS has certified are circulated. This sample size is so small, however, that this might mean little. Of more interest is the fact that of the 748 certified Period 1 Octagonal \$1.00 coins, 68.2% were circulated! This is strikingly different from the figures for Period 1 non-Dollars, of which only 24.1% were circulated.

Further, for both types of Period 1 Dollars combined, 70/759, or 9.22%, were graded XF or lower, while for the non-dollars the corresponding figures are 23/2905, or .79%. This means that the Period 1 Dollars were more than 11 times as likely to be graded as XF or less than were the smaller pieces!

The figures for Period 2 Dollars show a similar pattern. Of the Period 2 Round Dollars, 75/152, or 49.3%, are circulated, and for Period 2 Octagonal Dollars, the figures are 185/579, or 32.0%. Combined, the figures yield 260/731, or 35.6%, compared to 17.0% of the non-Dollars.

Further, of the 731 total Period 2 dollars, 28, or 3.83%, were below AU. For the Period 2 non-Dollars, only 49/10,594, or .46%, were graded as XF or lower. This means that Period 2 Dollars were more than 8 times as likely as Period 2 non-dollars to be graded XF or below.

Clearly, for both Periods, the Dollars are different. For some reason, the Dollars of both Periods had a different history from the 25 and 50 cent pieces.

Perhaps the California \$1.00 pieces were more likely to have been used as actual coinage because the public accepted them more readily since they were larger and thus less likely to get lost. Perhaps they were more likely to be used as coins because there were already some regular issue \$1.00 coins in circulation. This acceptance might be especially true for the round Dollars - after all, they look the most like regular issue U.S. coinage of any of the types in the California Small Denomination series.

Alternatively, the Dollars are more valuable on the average



than the smaller pieces. Perhaps Dollars are more likely to be submitted for PCGS grading because they are more valuable on the average.

Since the Period 2 Dollars are more likely to be circulated than the Period 1 non-Dollars (for AU or below - 32.0% vs. 24.1%; for XF or below, 3.83% vs .79% ) this raises an interesting question: is it possible that some Period 2 Dollars actually circulated as coins? In terms of the percentage that have been graded by PCGS as circulated, the Period 1 Dollars have much more in common with the Period 2 dollars than they do with the Period 1 25 and 50 cent coins.

### Anomalies Involving Period 2 Pieces

Moreover, the PCGS grading statistics show another anomaly that should be noted. Even though PCGS graded 83.0% of Period 2 25 cent and 50 cent pieces as uncirculated, there are a few notable exceptions. The ratio that were graded as circulated were, for example, as follows: BG 761, 22/47; BG 835, 65/151; BG 936, 14/28; BG 1026, 34/61; BG 1029, 18/30. Interestingly, all of these issues were produced in 1870 or 1871.

Is it possible that some of these pieces could have circulated in one or more places in California for some reason, such as a temporary coin shortage in some particular locations? Even though the vast majority of Period 2 pieces were intended only as jewelry pieces, it is possible that some were intended to be, and were actually used as, coins?

Alteratively, are prosaic reasons more likely explanations for why some issues were much more likely to be circulated? For example, perhaps large portions of certain issues were simply mishandled (despite being intended for the jewelry trade). Clearly, there is much that we do not know about the history of California Small Denomination gold pieces, both in general and also about particular issues.

### Compared To Government Issued U.S. Gold Dollars

If every existing California Small Denomination Gold piece were in uncirculated condition, we could be sure that they never had been used as money. But, if as a group they actually had been used as money - as opposed to just being souvenirs or jeweler pieces - what percentage should we expect to now be graded as being in circulated condition? What is the standard by which all of the percentages that were presented above should be

judged as being relatively high, or low?

The coin that probably can be compared to the California Small Denomination Gold pieces most instructively is the United States \$1.00 gold Dollar of the period. In fact, it can probably be compared best to the California Dollar pieces since, as was shown above, due to size or other reasons the California Dollars might have had a different history from the other California gold pieces.

The following table compares the percentage of California gold pieces that PCGS has graded as circulated, to comparable figures for U.S. Government issued \$1.00 Gold coins of the era:

				Percent Circ.	Percent XF or below
U.S. Gvt. \$1.00	Type 1	1849-54		38.2	5.6
U.S. Gvt. \$1.00	Type 2	1854-56		69.5	21.7
U.S. Gvt. \$1.00	Type 3	1856-89		19.7	3.3
Cal. \$1.00	Oct. P.1	1852-56		68.2	9.2
Cal. \$1.00	Round P.1	1852-56		100.0	27.3
Cal. \$1.00	Oct. P.2	1859-82		32.0	2.5
Cal. \$1.00	Round P.2	1859-82		49.3	9.2
Cal. .25 & .50	P.1	1852-56		24.1	.8
Cal. .25 & .50	P.2	1859-82		17.0	.5

Thus, the California Dollars are more likely to be graded as being in circulated condition than are the U.S. Government issued \$1.00 gold coins of the period. This certainly is consistent with the conclusion that Period 1 California Dollar issues were used as money. It even provides support for the possibility that some of the Period 2 Dollars were used as coins.

Compared to the U.S. Dollars, smaller percentages of the California 25 cent and 50 cent pieces were graded as circulated. This is especially true for pieces graded XF or lower. This is true even for the Period 1 25 cent and 50 cent pieces. This could indicate that some of these pieces were not used as money. Of course, it could just mean that these pieces had a significantly different history from either the California or U.S. Government issued Dollars.

Alternatively, the lower value of the circulated California issues could cause people to be less likely to certify them.

Recall that when the California Period 1 pieces with populations of 10 or less were examined separately, 46.7% were found to be in circulated condition. This percentage is higher than that for the Type 1 or Type 3 U.S. Dollars.

### Conclusions

The PCGS Population Report's statistics can be interpreted in a number of different ways. An analysis of these statistics suggests several possibilities that should be considered. None of the conclusions that follow, however, should be considered to be in any way conclusive.

The statistics give support for the conclusion that Period 1 Dollars circulated as money. The figures also provide support for the possibility that some Period 2 Dollars also were used as money, at least on some occasions in some locations.

One might frame these conclusions differently. Based only upon the PCGS Population Reports, it seems most likely that the Period 1 Dollars were actually used as money. Next most likely would be the Period 2 Dollars, followed by the Period 1 25 cent and 50 cent pieces. It also seems least likely that Period 2 25 cent and 50 cent pieces were used as coins, although even for these pieces there might have been some specific issues that actually circulated.

There is, however, another way that the statistics could be interpreted. The Period 1 pieces as a whole, and even the Period 1 non-Dollars, are roughly as likely to be found in circulated condition as are the Type 1 U.S. gold Dollars. This gives some support for the Breen-Gilleo conclusion that all of the Period 1 pieces actually were used as money. Moreover, even the Period 2 25 and 50 cent pieces are almost as likely to be graded as being in circulation condition as the U.S. Government issued Dollars of the period - 17.0% compared to 19.7% for Type 3 Dollars. So perhaps even some of the Period 2 25 and 50 cent pieces also were used as money.

Of course, these implications must be considered together with the other information that Breen & Gilleo present. I am not suggesting that the results from the PCGS Population Reports are in any way definitive - only that they might add very modestly to what we know about California Small Denomination Gold pieces.

This analysis raises far more questions than it answers. I only started to collect this fascinating series a short time ago, and would very much appreciate information and opinions from more



experienced and knowledgeable collectors and dealers on the issues I have raised. I am especially interested in learning of possible explanations for why the Dollar pieces are so much more likely to be found in circulated condition than the smaller pieces. Please share your thoughts with me through this Journal, or contact Robert H. Lande, 1211 Ballard St., Silver Spring, MD 20910. Phone: 301-585-5229; FAX 301-588-9498; E Mail [RLande@UBMail.UBalt.Edu](mailto:RLande@UBMail.UBalt.Edu).

Note: The author is grateful to R. Jack Totheroh for many suggestions, corrections, and ideas concerning the material in this Article. All remaining mistakes, however, are solely those of the author.



NEW VARIETIES, PERIOD 2, 1859-1883, CALIFORNIA SMALL DENOMINATION GOLD  
REPORTED SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF 'CALIFORNIA PIONEER FRACTIONAL GOLD' IN 1983  
by Jack Totheroh, S.P.P.N #5

There have been twenty-three new varieties reported since 1983. Some of the confusion in the assignment of numbers in the Brand Indian head octagonal quarters has been clarified (see BG795A-799EE, 799E-S2-799G2, 799P2-799FF. BG957A and 1026A are not new varieties. They represent different die states.

Looking back at old auction sales prior to 1983 there are indications that there may be other varieties still to be rediscovered, or they may be merely errors in description. Whatever the situation, it pays to carefully examine currently available coins. They may be unreported varieties.

This report would not have been possible without the cooperation and knowledge provided by the premier authority on California Small Denomination Gold, Jay Roe and Richard Montgomery, president of Professional Coin Grading Services. Any additions, corrections or comments will be received with appreciation.

Octagonal quarter dollars

- B.G.704A Rarity 8 A muling of B.G.704 obverse and B.G.107 reverse.  
obv: Large crude head; five minute 6-pointed stars. BG704  
rev: 1 4 DOLLAR 1856 within circle of dots (no fraction bar). BG107  
Report: Described in Coin World, 5-24-93 and verified by P.C.G.S.  
Record: Three auction sales are of the same coin.  
One listed in P.C.G.S. Population Report graded '63'.
- B.G.716A Rarity 9 A muling of BG711-715 obverse with BG718 reverse.  
obv: 8 stars, crude head, 1st star above and near bust point. 2nd star to left of mouth.  
rev: 1 4 DOLLAR 1871 within double bowed wreath. A stemmed berry rises from top of R; two berries are on the outer part of the right branch. A line connects the top of the D to the left branch. B.G.718.  
Reported by Richard Montgomery of Professional Coin Grading Service.  
Record: No auction sales.  
One listed in P.C.G.S. Population Report graded '65'.
- B.G.718A Rarity 9 The obverse of BG718 with a different reverse.  
obv: 6 stars: 1st star below chin, 2nd star left of point of nose.  
rev: 1 4 DOLLAR 1871 within wreath. 7 berries on left branch and 8 on right. First 1 in date recut as is the 1 in the fraction. AR in DOLLAR incomplete. The top of the O touches an outstretched leaf.  
Reported by Richard Montgomery of Professional Coin Grading Service.  
Record: No auction Sales.  
One listed in P.C.G.S. Population Report graded '63'.
- B.G.721A Rarity 9 The obverse of BG721 with a reverse similar to BG725 & BG814.  
obv: 13 stars, 2nd star opposite chin, 10th star nearly touches upper bun; 3rd, 5th & 7th stars are small. 1872 below bust.  
rev: 1 4 DOLLAR 1871 within wreath. Heavy berries at lower left of D and above R and on other side of stem.  
Reported by Richard Montgomery of Professional Coin Grading Service.  
Record: No auction sales.  
One listed by P.C.G.S. Population Report graded '55'.

- B.G.750A Rarity 9 A muling of BG750 obverse with BG757 reverse  
obv: 13 stars; 1st star to left chin, 5th star near coronet point.  
Non-beaded coronet. G below neck and immediately to left of 13th star.  
rev: 1/4 DOLLAR CAL within wreath. 4 berries on left branch, 3 on right.  
A berry below D and a pair of berries below R. No bow.  
Reported by Mike Brownlee to Jay Roe.  
Record: No auction sales.  
None listed in P.C.G.S. Population Report
- B.G.795A Rarity 9 The obverse of BG795 and a Brand reverse 'A'.  
obv: 13 stars with 1874 below Indian head. The date is low and slants to the right. BG795.  
rev: 1-4 DOLLAR CAL. within wreath. A berry is inside the wreath to the middle right of the R in DOLLAR. Brand 'A' reverse.  
Reported by Richard Montgomery of Professional Coin Grading Service.  
Record: No auction sales.  
One listed as 799EE by P.C.G.S. Population Report graded '62'.
- B.G.799E-S2 See B.G. 799G2  
One listed in P.C.G.S. Population Report graded '63'
- B.G.799G2 Rarity 9 BG799G with Brand reverse 'A'  
obv: 13 stars. The 7th star is between and above the 3rd & 4th feathers of the headdress. 1878/6 under the head. The 8 is made by a pellet on top of the 6. It is lower than the 187. There is a rim break from 6:00 through the middle of the 8 in the bust.  
rev: 1-4 DOLLAR inside the wreath. A berry left of the D and a leaf touches the tail of the R. 2 berries outside of bow and 2 berries outside of bow strings.  
Reported by Jay Roe as 799G2 and by Richard Montgomery as 799E2.  
Record: No auction sales.  
One reported in P.C.G.S. as 799E2, graded '63'.
- B.G.799P2 Rarity 8 This is the same variety which earlier had been named 799FF.  
(see B.G.799FF) obv: 13 stars. The 7th star is between the 3rd and 4th feathers of the head-dress. 1874 under the bust with the 74 joining the hair.  
rev: 1-4 DOLLAR inside the wreath. A berry to the bottom left of the D, and a leaf which touches the tail of the R. Labeled reverse 'A' in Breen-Gillio.  
Reported by Richard Montgomery of P.C.G.S. as obv. of 799P2 with rev. 'A'.  
Record: 5 auction sales; four of which were the same coin.  
Two in P.C.G.S. Population Report both graded '64'.
- B.G.799EE See B.G.795A  
B.G.799FF See B.G.799P2

#### Round quarter dollars

- B.G.820A Rarity 9 Obverse of BG820 with a different reverse.  
obv: 14 stars. Liberty bust points to 1st star; coronet points to 7th star.  
rev: 1-4 (in shield) DOLLAR 1863/0 (3 over 0). All within wreath.  
Reported in Superior-Lawson Auction, 06-05-85, #1957, '50'.  
Record: Superior-Lawson only auction sale.  
None reported in P.C.G.S.



- B.G.835A    Rarity 8    A muling of BG 835 and BG 839.  
 obv: 13 small 6-pointed stars. Bust points at 1st star, 6th star to left of coronet. All stars except 8th and 9th stars close to border. The border is straight and above the 6th and 7th stars. G 1870 below bust. BG 835  
 rev: 1-4 DOLLAR CAL within wreath. The C is lower than the AL in CAL.  
 No bow. No berries. BG 839 (shattered die of BG 834).  
 Reported in Superior-May Auction, 05-31-94, #1816, '61'  
 Record: Superior-May only auction sale.  
 Two in P.C.G.S. Population Report graded '55' and '61'.
- B.G.853W(A)    Rarity 9    A modified obverse of BG853 with date changed to 1881.  
 obv: 13 stars around and 1881 below a small Indian head.  
 rev: 1-4 DOLLAR CAL. within a wreath. 3 pairs of berries on each branch.  
 There is a berry at middle right of the R. BG 853.  
 Reported by Jay Roe in Brasher Bulletin, Vol.7, #2, p.3.  
 Record: No auction sales.  
 Not identified in P.C.G.S.
- B.G.857A    Rarity 9    A BG 857 obverse with a different reverse.  
 obv: 13 stars around, H 1871 below small Liberty head with long neck. 1st star below point of bust; tiara points to 6th star.  
 rev: 1-4 DOLLAR CAL within wreath. No berries on either branch  
 Reported by Jay Roe.  
 Record: No auction sales.  
 Not identified in P.C.G.S.
- B.G.864A    Rarity 9    Obverse of BG864 with a modified reverse.  
 obv: 13 stars around and H 1871 below a small Liberty head with long neck.  
 Bust points to the 1st star; 6th star almost touches the point of the coronet.  
 The 71 of 1871 is truncated.  
 rev: 1 in numerator has serif; LA in DOLLAR is joined. Middle leaf on top left group has elongated point; corresponding leaf on right does not. Berry at D not impaled. 2 berries below A. Numerator has base and serif.  
 First reported in P.C.A.G.-Steinmetz, 06-05-87, #1560, '50'.  
 Record: 2 auction sales. P.C.A.G.-Steinmetz and Heritage-A.N.A. Dearborn, 07-30-94, #8089, '55'. Probably the same coin.  
 One in P.C.G.S. graded '55' - The Heritage-A.N.A. Dearborn coin.
- B.G.875A    Rarity 9    BG875 with Brand 'A' reverse.  
 obv: 1874 with 13 stars and large Liberty head. The 74 of date touches the rim.  
 rev: Not described adequately, but probably 'A' variety with closed wreath at top and straight leaves. 1-4 DOLLAR inside wreath.  
 Reported in Harmer-Rooke-Public Auction, 03-15-91, #549, '60'  
 Record: Only the one above.  
 Not listed in P.C.G.S.
- B.G.876A    Rarity 9    BG876 with 'D' reverse. This probably eliminates the ? after Herman J. Brand.  
 obv: 13 stars. Indian head with 1874 below. The 7 is low.  
 rev: 1-4 DOLLAR CAL within wreath. No period after CAL. Both leaves turn up  
 Reported in New Netherlands-Numisma F.P.L., 04-01-57, #5067, '63'.  
 Record: Only the one above which sold at \$12.50.  
 Not listed in P.C.G.S.

Octagonal half dollars

- B.G.931W    Rarity 9    A modified obverse of BG 931 with a 5 over 5 of the date.  
obv: 13 5 pointed stars around and 1875 with 5 over 5 under Liberty head  
The bust points to the 1 in the date. The crown points just below the 6th star  
rev: 1-2 DOLLAR CAL within wreath. 4 berries on each branch. The 2 of the  
fraction is disproportionately large.  
Reported by Jay Roe.  
Record: No auction records.  
Not listed in P.C.G.S.
- B.G.932W(A)Rarity 6+    Formerly BG964. A clashed die shows it is a California Jewelry make - (See  
(B.G.964)    Heritage-A.N.A. Dearborn, 7-30-94, #8113, '62'). Breen-Gillio lists it as  
Unknown Maker III.  
obv: 13 stars around and 1881 below a crude Liberty head. The bust points to  
the 1st star. The diadem points to the 6th star.  
rev: 1-2 CAL DOLL \* within a wreath. No berries, no bow.  
Identified by Heritage as a California Jewelry variety.  
Record: 11 auction sales as BG964.  
Five in P.C.G.S., '50', '55', '58', 2 '62'.
- B.G.944W(A)    Rarity 9    A modified B.G.844 obverse with prominent first feather leaning to left, open  
mouth, heavy cracks on face. 187-4 with line connecting 7 to 4.  
Reported by Richard Montgomery.  
One is in the P.C.G.S. Population Report, '63'.  
Record: No auction sales.
- B.G.950A    Rarity 9    A muling of overse B.G.950 with Brand 'C' reverse (BG955 or BG957)  
obv: 13 stars, large 1876 date. Stars 3,4 and 5 at a straight angle.  
rev: 1-3 DOLLAR within wreath. Leaf tip is free of the R. CAL is almost  
effaced. Reverse 'C'.  
Reported by Jay Roe  
Record: No auction sales.  
Not listed in P.C.G.S.
- B.G.956A    Rarity 9    A muling of BG 956 obverse and BG 949-952 (Brand rev. 'A').  
obv: 13 stars; Indian head, 8 feathers; 1881 below head  
rev: 1-2 DOLLAR CAL within wreath; leaves touch top and base of D. BG 'A'.  
Reported in New Netherlands, Numisma F.P.L., 4-1-1957.  
Record: One auction sale, New Netherlands, 4-1-57, #5105, '63', \$13.  
Not listed in P.C.G.S.
- B.G.957A    Rarity 6    BE AWARE!. This is not a new variety. Early die state of BG957.  
(early d.s. BG957)    Reported by Jay Roe in the Brasher Bulletin, Vol.7, #2, pp 2-3.  
18 in the P.C.G.S. Population Report.
- B.G.964  
(See B.G.932W)    This was found to be a Levinson, California Jewelry variety by Heritage in the  
A.N.A. Dearborn Auction, 07-30-94, #8113.
- B.G.965    This is the B.G. 965 variety with a thin plancheet.  
Reported by Jay Roe.

Round half dollars

B.G.1026A    Rarity 4  
(early d.s 1027)

BE AWARE!. This is also not a new variety.  
Reported by Jay Roe in the Brasher Bulletin, Vol.7, #2, pp.2-3.  
21 in the P.C.G.S. Population Report.

B.G.1040A    Rarity 7-

A muling of BG1040 obverse and BG1036-1039 reverse.  
obv: 13 stars, 'baby head'. 1876 below bust. 6 closer to star than to 7.  
rev: 1-2 DOLLAR CAL within wreath. A berry below and to left of D in DOLLAR.  
A berry to right of and below L in CAL.  
Reported by Jay Roe in Brasher Bulletin, Vol. 1, #1, p.9.  
Record: 8 auctions.  
7 listed in P.C.G.S. Population Report.

B.G.1070A    Rarity 9

BG1070 without a small star above the 1 of 1-2 on the reverse.  
obv: Indian head. 13 stars. Tip of neck points to the bottom of the 1st star. 6th star between 1st and 2nd feathers. 1881 is halfway between the border and the bust.  
rev: 1-2 DOLLAR within a wreath. A berry to the top right of the R. There is no small star above the 1 in 1-2.  
Jay Roe states that this is not a new variety. It is merely a worn obverse die.  
Record: 1 auction. Superior-October Sale, 10-07-90, #824, '60'.  
None identified in P.C.G.S.

Octagonal dollars

B.G.1116A    Rarity 9

BG1116 except the reverse has no star above the 1.  
obv: 13 stars, small Indian head, 1876 below. Head leans forward.  
rev: CALIFORNIA GOLD outside of wreath. 1 DOLLAR with scrolls below DOLLAR. No star above the 1.  
Reported: Jay Roe in the Brasher Bulletin, Vol 8, #2, page 3. "Apparently made before California Jewelry added the star to the die".  
Record: No auction records.  
1 listed in P.C.G.S. Population Report graded '60'.

B.G.1117W(A)    Rarity8

BG1117 obverse with 13 large 5-pointed stars and 18 7 6 with BG1116 reverse.  
obv: 13 5-pointed stars around and 18 7 6 below Liberty head. Bust points to the 1 of the date; 6th star nearly touches the coronet point. The 8 of the date is below and to the right of the bust point.  
rev: CALIFORNIA GOLD outside the wreath. \* 1 DOLLAR scroll within. BG1116.  
Reported: Coin World, 7-10-95, 'Previously unknown variety of the 1976 California Gold dollar' with obverse and reverse pictured.  
Record: Three auctions: New Netherlands-Numisma F. P. L, 08-01-57, #5191, '60', Superior-Cal-Neva, 09-22-87, #4688, '60', Bowers-Merena, Anaheim, 8-14-95, #428, '50'.  
1 listed in P.C.G.S. Population Report graded '50'. The Bowers-Merena coin.



CALIFORNIA SMALL DENOMINATION GOLD

Auction Sales History

**BG #203**

**NO FRONTIER-DEVIERY ROUNDQUARTER**

**RARITY 7-**

DESCRIPTION

obv: Same narrow Liberty head as B.G.201 &202, but with 12 stars. 1st star does not touch the bust point. 8th star touches the rim and is away from the top bun.

rev: Raised rim. Beaded ring between the rim and wreath. 1-4 DOLLAR within wreath. All berries on left branch are on the inside.

NOTES

There is an early die state with no die cracked rim from 8th star to top bun & from 8th to 9th star.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>AUCTION HOUSE</u>	<u>COLLECTION</u>	<u>LOT #</u>	<u>DIE ST.</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>X-REF</u>
06-14-81	KRUEGER	Garden State	1167		60	\$2,500	
01-06-95	BOWERS & MERENA	Perry	3067		60	\$660	
07-14-93	COIN GALLERY	Mail Bid Sale	2821		60	\$541	
01-31-90	SUPERIOR	Chalkey	5249		60	\$396	1
06-05-87	PCAG	Steinmetz, Long	1376		58	\$374	
01-10-92	BOWERS & MERENA	Texas	4131		55	\$330	
03-30-90	BOWERS & MERENA	Brand-3	1705		60	\$319	
10-01-89	SUPERIOR	Heifetz	13		60	\$308	
09-25-88	SUPERIOR	Lee	16		60	\$297	1
01-31-84	SUPERIOR	Premier Sale	2117		60	\$297	
11-08-83	BOWERS & MERENA	Brand-1	612		65	\$275	
08-08-86	KAGIN	A.N.A.	3509		55	\$275	
08-16-83	COIN GALLERY	Mail Bid Sale	2345	1	60	\$248	
08-01-97	HERITAGE	A.N.A., N.Y.	7900		62	\$242	
06-24-92	STACKS	Smith, Sonderman	864		40	\$242	
09-12-97	HERITAGE	Long beach	8220		50	\$233	
08-01-89	BARNES	Private		2	45	\$170	
09-22-76	HARMER-ROOKE	New York	109		60	\$60	
04-19-56	NEW NETHERLANDS	T. James Clarke	493		60	\$28	
01-01-15	SEAF3	Pt II, F.P.L.	5		60	\$4.00	
06-23-16	S.H. CHAPMAN	Gregory	2371		30	\$1.90	

X-REF indicates multiple sales of the same coin. A missing duplicate pair number indicates other sale achieved price of less than top 25 prices realized.

Data compiled by R.J. TOTTEROH. Care has been taken, however accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

# CALIFORNIA SMALL DENOMINATION GOLD

## Auction Sales History

**BG #732**
**1860 GRAY & CO.**
**OCTAGONAL QUARTER**
**RARITY 6+**
**DESCRIPTION**

obv: 15 stars; 1st star below point of bust, coronet points to 7th star, 2nd and 9th stars repunched. No beads on coronet. G below bust. Similar to B.G.731 but stars are closer to border and LIBE is on coronet.

rev: 1-4 DOLLAR 1860 within wreath; two ribbons, small knots for a bow. Same as B.G.731.

**NOTES**

d.s.2 Heavy breaks at left branch.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>AUCTION HOUSE</u>	<u>COLLECTION</u>	<u>LOT #</u>	<u>DIE ST.</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>X-REF</u>
01-10-92	BOWERS & MERENA	Texas	4042	1	50	\$715	1
11-08-83	BOWERS & MERENA	Brand 1	542		50	\$413	3
06-05-87	PCAG	Steinmetz, L.B.,	1456	2	50	\$396	3
01-26-85	BOWERS & MERENA	Cohen	2209	2	45	\$308	
09-25-88	SUPERIOR	Lee	144		55	\$253	1
05-30-95	SUPERIOR	May Auction	3951		53	\$253	
05-28-93	BOWERS & MERENA	Stetson University	2571		40	\$242	
10-01-87	SUPERIOR	Heifetz	137		40	\$143	2
08-15-96	HERITAGE	A.N.A. Denver	6279		50	\$110	
01-06-95	BOWERS & MERENA	Perry	3026		30	\$110	
02-01-94	SUPERIOR	Rothenberger	2856		20	\$110	2
06-17-50	NUMISMATIC GALLERY	Menjou	2500		30	\$9	

**BG #733**
**1863 GRAY & CO.**
**OCTAGONAL QUARTER**
**RARITY 7+**
**DESCRIPTION**

obv: 15 stars; 1st star below point of bust, coronet points to 7th star, 2nd and 9th stars repunched. No beads on coronet. G below bust. Similar to B.G.731 but stars are closer to border and LIBE is on coronet. Same as B.G.732

rev: 1 4 (in shield) DOLLAR 1863 within wreath; Small flat top bow.

**NOTES**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>AUCTION HOUSE</u>	<u>COLLECTION</u>	<u>LOT #</u>	<u>DIE ST.</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>X-REF</u>
05-10-80	KRUEGER	Grafton	434		60	\$8,500	1
07-30-94	HERITAGE	A.N.A. Dearborn,	8031		62	\$1,375	1
09-22-87	SUPERIOR	Cal-Neva	4507		30	\$880	
05-30-95	SUPERIOR	May Auction	3952		62	\$820	
09-25-88	SUPERIOR	Lee	145		60	\$798	2
01-10-92	BOWERS & MERENA	Texas	4043		62	\$715	2
01-30-85	SUPERIOR	Buss	2137		40	\$264	
04-01-57	NEW NETHERLANDS	Numisma F.P.L.	5011		30	\$33.50	

X-REF indicates multiple sales of the same coin. A missing duplicate pair number indicates other sale achieved price of less than top 25 prices realized.

Data compiled by R.J. TOTTEROH. Care has been taken, however accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

CALIFORNIA SMALL DENOMINATION GOLDAuction Sales History

BG #1203

1870 GRAY &amp; CO

ROUND DOLLAR

RARITY 5

DESCRIPTION

obv: 13 5-pointed stars around, with G 1870 below Liberty head 1st star to left of bust point; coronet points to 6th star. Single angular bow slanting upward to the right.  
 rev: CALIFORNIA GOLD outside of wreath. 1 DOLLAR within. 5 berries on each branch. A berry below F in CALIFORNIA and below G in GOLD.

NOTES

D.S. 1: Perfect reverse. Breen- Gillio says 'very rare'.  
 D.S. 2: Crack through large 1, 2nd L, to leaf just right of bow.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>AUCTION HOUSE</u>	<u>COLLECTION</u>	<u>LOT #</u>	<u>DIE ST.</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>X-REF</u>
04-10-80	NERCA	N.E. Rare Coin	352		60	\$8,500	
08-18-80	IVY	A.N.A. Cincinnati	557		60	\$5,000	
02-18-97	SUPERIOR	Gainsborough II	2618		64	\$2,200	
01-29-96	SUPERIOR	Edmunds	2101	2	63	\$2,090	4
11-08-83	BOWERS & MERENA	Brand-1	941		45	\$2,090	
05-31-94	SUPERIOR	May Auction	1869		62	\$1,980	
10-20-97	KERN, JONATHAN	Coin World	F.P.L.		63	\$1,877	
08-01-97	HERITAGE	A.N.A., N.Y.	7968		64	\$1,840	
09-25-82	PCAG	N.C.N.A., S. F.	1095		63	\$1,715	6
10-27-83	STACKS	Coles Collection	284		60	\$1,650	
01-10-92	BOWERS & MERENA	Texas	4473	1	63	\$1,430	
10-07-90	SUPERIOR	October Sale	840		63	\$1,375	4
10-07-90	SUPERIOR	October Sale	842	2	62	\$1,375	5
06-05-87	PCAG	Steinmetz, Long	1681	2	60	\$1,375	
05-30-95	SUPERIOR	May Auction	4234		61	\$1,320	1
09-23-83	PCAG	N.C.N.A., S. F.	1507	1	60	\$1,320	
10-07-90	SUPERIOR	October Sale	841		63	\$1,275	
01-06-96	HERITAGE	F.U.N. Sale	7104		60	\$1,210	
09-25-88	SUPERIOR	Lee	481		60	\$1,155	4
10-01-89	SUPERIOR	Heifetz	415		63	\$1,100	3
11-08-83	BOWERS & MERENA	Brand-1	942		40	\$1,100	
01-08-77	PINE TREE	F.U.N. Hallendale,	793		60	\$1,000	
02-06-82	PULLEN & HANKS	Collector Series I	C-38		45	\$950	
07-26-84	SUPERIOR	Auction '84'	1992		63	\$935	
09-23-83	PCAG	N.C.N.A., S. F.	1508		63	\$935	6

X-REF indicates multiple sales of the same coin. A missing duplicate pair number indicates other sale achieved price of less than top 25 prices realized

Data compiled by R.J. TOTTEROH. Care has been taken, however accuracy cannot be guaranteed.



## Further Reading

The following list is a fraction of the rich and wonderful literature of the gold rush era. The complete list of sources consulted for *Gold Fever in the North* includes these titles but is too long to include in its entirety here.

### First-hand accounts:

Tappan Adney

*The Klondike Stampede*. University of British Columbia Press, 1994 (originally published 1900).

Laura Berton

*I Married the Klondike*. McClelland & Stewart, 1961.

Anna DeGraf

*Pioneering on the Yukon, 1892-1917*. Archon Books, 1992 (Roger S. Brown, ed.).

Albert W. Morgan

*Memories of Old Sunrise: Gold Mining on Alaska's Turnagain Arm*. Cook Inlet Historical Society, 1994 (Rolfe G. Buzzell, ed.)

### First-hand accounts, out of print:

Kenneth Gideon

*Wandering Boy*. Merkle Press, 1967.

Frederick Schwatka

*Along Alaska's Great River*. Alaska Northwest Books, 1983 (originally published 1885).

Arthur T. Walden

*A Dog-Puncher on the Yukon*. Houghton Mifflin, 1928.

James Wickersham

*Old Yukon Tales, Trails and Trials*. Washington Law Book Company, 1938.

### Secondary works:

Francis Backhouse

*Women of the Klondike*. Whitecap Books, 1995.

Pierre Berton

*The Klondike Fever: The Life and Death of the Last Great Gold Rush*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Terrence Cole

*Crooked Past: The History of a Frontier Mining Camp: Fairbanks, Alaska*. University of Alaska Press, 1991.

Terrence Cole

*Nome: City of the Golden Beaches*. Alaska Geographic Society, 1984.

Michael Gates

*Gold at Fortymile Creek: Early Days in the Yukon*. University of British Columbia Press, 1994.

Jane Haigh/Clair Murphy

*Gold Rush Women*. Alaska Northwest Books, 1997.

William R. Hunt

*North of 53°: The Wild Mining Days of the Alaska-Yukon Mining Frontier, 1870-1914*. Macmillan, 1974.

David Neufeld/Frank Norris

*Chilkoot Trail: Heritage Route to the Yukon*. Lost Moose, 1996

Archie Satterfield

*Klondike Park: From Seattle to Dawson City*. Fulcrum, 1993.

### Pictorial histories:

Murray Morgan

*One Man's Gold Rush: A Klondike Album*. University of Washington Press, 1967 (photos by E.A. Hegg).

Jasper Wyman

*Journey to the Koyukuk: The Photos of J.N. Wyman, 1898-99*. Pictorial Histories, 1988.

### **Days of Adventure, Dreams of Gold**

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Dozens of the instant guides to the Klondike that sprang from the presses at the turn of the century might have bannered the text at right, but *Two Years in the Klondike* was singularly different from those books: here, author William B. Haskell told the truth, and he told it well. In a unique, charming, and poetic style, Haskell writes of his trek to Alaska's Fortymile and Circle City in the spring of 1896 preceding the Klondike discovery, and recounts his adventures in the gold fields before and after the stampede of 1897-1898. A keen observer of human nature, Haskell's witty comments on conditions in the Yukon Valley are delightful reading. His gritty and realistic

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Though out of print for nearly a hundred years, Haskell's autobiography has been a major source for every thorough history of the gold rush era in the past century. This new edition of his memoir, published in commemoration of the gold rush centennial as the fifth volume in the University of Alaska Press' Classic Reprint Series, brings back his remarkable eyewitness account of the Klondike stampede. A preface by series editor Terrence Cole and index accompany the original text and photographs.



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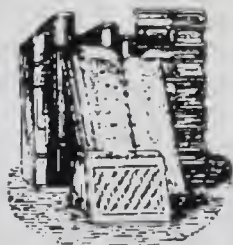
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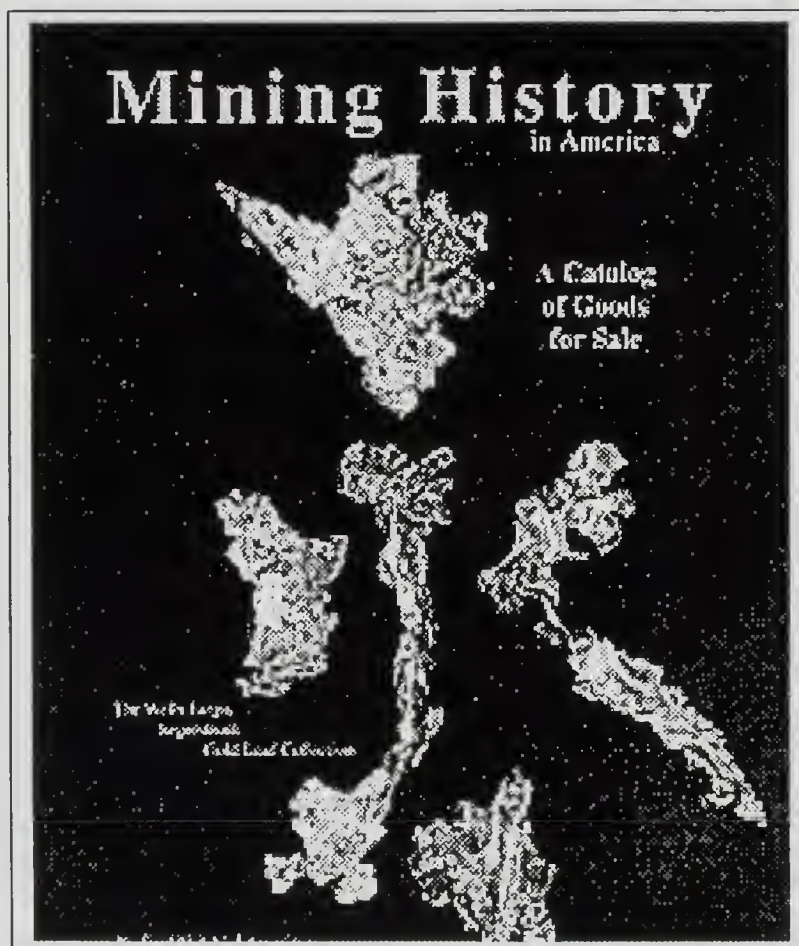
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